

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 16437 142125Z

13-11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 141540Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6781
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16437

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, GW, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV'S HEALTH DURING SCHEEL VISIT, FRG REPORT

1. UK HEAD OF CHANCERY TOLD POLITICAL COUNSELLOR NOV 14 THAT FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM HAD TOLD UK AMBASSADOR GARVEY (PROTECT ALL THREE) THAT THE GERMANS HAD BROUGHT A DOCTOR ALONG TO LOOK BREZHNEV OVER DURING 90-MINUTE SCHEEL-BREZHNEV MEETING NOVEMBER 11, AND THAT DOCTOR'S IMPRESSION WAS THAT BREZHNEV IS QUITE HEALTHY.

2. FRG COUNSELOR ARNOT AT POLITICAL COUNSELLORS MEETING SAME DAY DESCRIBED BREZHNEV AS HAVING BEEN "CHEERFUL, ENTHUSIASTIC, AND DYNAMIC" DURING THE COURSE OF THE TALKS. HE WAS VERY CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND GOT UP FROM THE TABLE SEVERAL TIMES, WALKED AROUND, AND GESTICULATED A GOOD DEAL. ARNOT SAID THAT BREZHNEV'S CONCENTRATION HAD BEEN GOOD AND THAT THERE WAS NO OBSERVABLE FLAGGING OF CONCENTRATION DURING 90 MINUTE MEETING. IN THIS REGARD, BREZHNEV'S PERFORMANCE WAS MUCH BETTER THAN DURING HIS MEETING WITH SCHMIDT AT HELSINKI, WHERE SCHMIDT HAD FELT BREZHNEV WAS NOT FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION AT SEVERAL POINTS.

3. GERMAN DCM BALSER AT QP MEETING ALSO COMMENTED ON BREZHNEV'S GENERAL EBULLIENCE, SAYING THAT MEETING WITH SCHEEL WAS PUNCTUATED BY OCCASIONAL CLOWING, AND OBSERVED THAT BREZHNEV'S MOOD COULD HAVE BEEN IN PART RESULT OF INTAKE OF
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ALCOHOL OR OF STIMULANT.

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